

1 (a) Radially Expandable PTFE Tape-Reinforced Vascular Graft, issued
July 31, 2001 (261634) ~~5,843,173~~ ~~12/16/98~~ as a U.S. Letters Patent No. 5,843,173, which is a
continuation of U.S. application Serial No. 08/423,762, filed April 17, 1995,
and issued on June 24, 1997 as U.S. Patent No. 5,641,373, entitled Methods
5 of Manufacturing a Radially-Enlargeable PTFE Tape-Reinforced Vascular
Graft.--

IN THE ABSTRACT:

Please replace the abstract with the following:

10 (a) 2 -- A tape-reinforced tubular vascular graft formed of sintered
fluoropolymer(s), such as expanded, sintered PTFE. The graft includes a
base graft and a reinforcing tape applied thereto. The tape may be
spirally wrapped about the graft or spirally wrapped into a tube about a
cylindrical mandrel and then applied to the exterior of the graft. Radial
15 shrinkage of the combined base graft and tape, or of the reinforcing tape
tube, renders the vascular graft subsequently radially enlargeable by
more than 5%, without tearing or breaking of the reinforcement tape layer
of the graft. Radially enlargeable grafts of the present invention may be
combined with various types of stents or anchoring systems, to form
20 endovascular graft devices which are transluminally insertable and
implantable within the lumen of a host blood vessel. Alternatively, radially
enlargeable grafts of the present invention may be implanted by way of
traditional surgical graft implantation techniques, without any radial
enlargement of the graft at the time of implantation, so as to take
25 advantage of the improved strength properties and suture-holding
properties of the radially-shrunken tape-reinforced grafts of the present
invention.--